

MADISON CAPITOL TIMES (WI)
31 March 1984

CIA on campus: Some students protest, others seek jobs

By KAYE SCHULTZ
Capital Times Staff Writer

"I've got some news that's shocking; it's frightening," University of Wisconsin-Madison student Bill Mutranowski shouted into a microphone on the steps of the UW Memorial Union Friday noon. Two amplifiers attached to the microphone were turned up to a painful volume.

"A company whose stock in trade is murder, espionage abroad and paramilitary activities... is recruiting on our campus," Mutranowski said. If the message wasn't heard, it was visible on several posters being held aloft in the crowd, among them, "CIA spies off campus."

But across campus at the Engineering Building, the atmosphere Friday afternoon was radically different. Impeccably dressed in dark suits and fidgeting with portfolios or clipboards, men and women waited outside interviewing rooms for their scheduled audiences with some of the same companies being maligned by their fellow students — including the Central Intelligence Agency.

In the rally sponsored by the group Disarmament Now, Mutranowski decried CIA use of the university as "a hiring hall." By allowing the Central Intelligence Agency to recruit on campus, he said, the UW "is lending an air of respectability and legitimacy to war and war-mongers."

Even worse, he said, is the fact that 23 of the top 50 nuclear weapons manufacturing firms in the country, including General Dynamics,

McDonnell Douglas, Rockwell International, General Electric and Boeing, have visited the UW campus to recruit for potential employees this year.

UW-Extension Prof. Kathryn Clarenbach said she spoke on behalf of faculty protesting the CIA campus interviewing. "It's a travesty of the university commitment to 'sifting and winnowing' to indicate to our students that CIA activity is an acceptable use of their education," she said.

To avoid any possible conflict, 13 CIA interviews scheduled Friday were moved from the Letters and Science placement office in Science Hall, directly across from the union, to the less politically charged engineering campus. Any demonstrators

who showed up in the basement of Science Hall found only two sturdy-looking UW Police and Security officers equipped with night sticks.

One of the students who interviewed with the CIA Friday, senior economics major Scott Pistono of Stevens Point, said most of the nine other job interviews he's had have been with private companies.

"As long as I have the opportunity for an interview, I thought I'd like to take advantage of it. The CIA is an interesting employer," he said.

Pistono said he thinks demonstrations against the CIA recruiting are misdirected, because "they're not looking for intelligence people." What the agency is looking for, according to placement officials, are translators, computer programmers, documents analysts and librarians.

The CIA makes about two recruiting visits a year to the UW campus, career advising and placement services Director Thomas Johnson said. So do some of the other top companies participating in weapons development and manufacture.

"Graduating Engineer," a magazine available in the engineering placement office, lists most of the companies Disarmament Now would like to eliminate from campus recruiting as among the top 25 employer choices by engineering graduates nationwide. Of 2,684 technical students surveyed, 36 percent listed the "nature of the work" as the reason they prefer jobs with companies like GE, Rockwell and McDonnell Douglas.

Continued

2.



The CIA's visits to the UW campus usually draw protests from some, such as this rally Friday afternoon. But visits also draw students interested in making a career out of the CIA.